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governments were found to be favorable to the enterprise, and the way is open for the establishment of the American school as soon as funds for the purpose are available.

A NOTEWORTHY GIFT

The Zion Research Foundation, of Brookline, Massachusetts, has donated a thousand dollars to the American School of Oriental Research in Palestine toward American research "where early Christian documents might be found." The gift is made on condition that the Foundation shall receive photographic copies of the originals of any documents that may be discovered, and translations, when such are made. If successful, the Directors of the Foundation are willing to renew the gift every year for five years. The Executive Committee of the school have accepted the gift and are making investigation as to the most promising field of research in which to employ it.

AN ASSYRIAN CODE OF LAWS

Our readers will remember the notable discovery of the Code of Hammurabi which was made by the French a little over twenty years ago at Susa. This discovery has now been matched by the discovery of a part of an Assyrian code of laws by the Germans, who have since 1902 been excavating at Kalah Shergat, the site of the city of Ashur, the ancient capital of Assyria and the city from which that country took its name. The excavation itself was brought to an end by the outbreak of the war in 1914, but during the war German scholars were quietly editing tablets that had been discovered. In 1920 Dr. Otto Schroeder published six fragments of tablets, which formed part of a series of tablets which contained an Assyrian code of laws. They were published in No. 35 of the scientific publications of the German Orient-Gesellschaft. Only two of the fragments are of considerable size. The first of these contains fifty-five sections of laws; the other, eighteen. The text reached America last autumn, but Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., of our Executive Committee, has published a translation of these tablets in the current number of the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*. The first tablet contains laws relating to women; the second, laws relating to fields and land. The regulations are quite detailed and introduce us to the inner workings of Assyrian social organization. When we compare these laws with the Code of Hammurabi, they reveal the Assyrians as more cruel and less civilized than the Babylonians. This was known from texts previously discovered, but, since nothing reveals the social life of an ancient people so fully as their laws, many interesting details are now added. Scholars will for a long time be busy comparing these laws with the Code of Hammurabi and with the Pentateuch.

A BABYLONIAN ACCOUNT OF PARADISE, THE FALL AND REDEMPTION

Among the tablets discovered at Ashur are some fragments of that great Babylonian Creation Epic, parts of which were discovered fifty years ago by George Smith. These fragments not only supply some missing parts of the first tablet of the poem, but give us practically the whole of the sixth tablet, of which we knew previously only a few lines of the beginning. This tablet contained, it was known, an account of the creation of man, but, now that its text is before us, we find, to our surprise, that it con-